



## Highlights

Heavy rainfall on 24-25 April resulted in flash floods across 10 provinces in northern, north-east and western Afghanistan. Initial reports indicate that Jawzjan province is the worst affected. According to the UN, more than 132 people have been killed, 27 000 affected and 16 000 displaced in Jawzjan, Faryab and Sar-e-Pul provinces as of 28 April.

The Afghan Government's Provincial Disaster Management Committees are leading the coordination of the response with support from WHO and international partners. Health officials, national emergency preparedness and response experts and WHO experts have been to affected areas to determine needs, although limited access to some of the more heavily affected areas in Jawzjan remains a key challenge.



WHO health experts in Jawzjan inspecting damage to infrastructure as a result of the floods

Source: WHO Afghanistan country office

## Health situation

Heavy rainfall on 24-25 April resulted in flash floods across 23 districts in 6 provinces in Northern Afghanistan. More than 39,000 Afghans have been affected by the floods to date and are in need of assistance. The most recent assessments indicate Jawzjan province as the most severely impacted with over 27,000 people affected. Other provinces that incurred large scale damage include Faryab and Sar-e-Pul.

132 Afghans have been reported as killed by provincial sources, although these numbers remain subject to verification. Search and rescue operations by the Afghan National Army (ANA) are continuing, with up to 14,000 people evacuated from flooded areas to date.

Across the provinces, flood waters have destroyed homes, public infrastructure and roads. There are almost 40 facilities at risk in affected areas. Initial assessments in accessible areas show that the following facilities have been destroyed and health service delivery is being provided in temporary tents:

- Community Health Centre in Khaja Doko district in Jawzjan province
- Sub-center health facility of Kush Tepa district (partially destroyed)
- Basic Health Centre in Sozma Kala district in Sar-e-Pul province (partially destroyed)
- Basic Health Centre in Sayad district

No health facilities have been reported damaged in Faryab and Badghes provinces and ambulances in Jawzjan province are functioning in the area.

Assessments are still underway to determine the full extent of the damage and the scale of humanitarian needs. Concurrently, UN agencies, NGOs and the Red Cross movement are working in coordination with local

authorities to ensure immediate delivery of emergency relief materials. The main challenge impeding the health response is that affected populations are scattered in a number of areas that are hard to access.

## Health response

The Afghan Government's Provincial Disaster Management Committees are leading the coordination of the response within their affected provinces with support from WHO and partners. Humanitarian partners have established an operational center in Jawzjan province to coordinate their activities.

WHO is providing logistical support to the Ministry of Public Health's Emergency Preparedness and Response committee and participating in missions to affected provinces to assess the health needs and gaps in response. WHO staff in Mazar have been in touch with the provincial health directors and visited the hospital to assess needs and gaps and determine response strategies.

WHO has provided the Jawzjan Public Health Directorate emergency with medicines and supplies for more than 5,000 beneficiaries. In Mazar and Faryab provinces, WHO has provided health kits for 40,000 beneficiaries, as well as kits for the treatment of diarrheal diseases.

The Afghan Red Crescent has positioned mobile clinics in Jawzjan, Faryab and Sar-e-Pul. In Jawzjan province two mobile teams from Security Armed Forces are providing health services in Qoshtapa and Khwaja Do Koh and two other mobile teams and an ambulance are treating survivors in Khwaja Do Koh.

Disasters such as floods can lead to the breakdown of diarrhea and infectious diseases. Surveillance systems have been activated in all flood affected areas with daily reporting of diseases. WHO has established zero reporting for disease outbreaks in affected provinces and is planning to implement a measles campaign for children from 6 months to 10 years on 12 May 2014. Additional Disease Early Warning Sentinel sites are being established to monitor disease outbreaks in areas where populations are displaced. A technical team from MoH and a WHO expert are on the ground in Mazar-al-Sherif to re-establish the disease early warning system.

One of the major health concerns during floods is the risk of communicable disease due to interruptions in safe water and sanitation services. An inter-agency assessment mission on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) led by UNICEF, is underway in the affected areas. Water trucking is ongoing, although additional support is required to secure safe water. Water purification tablets have also been provided. UNICEF is currently following up with Ministry of Reconstruction and Rehabilitation and Development to establish emergency / temporary public latrines. An expert team of UNICEF and WHO are travelling to Jawzjan to determine the hygiene and sanitation needs of the displaced people.

## Coordination

WHO is working with health partners on the ground to identify health needs and ensure that information and updates are being shared regularly.

## Donors and funding

Currently, no gaps in funding have been reported.

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